

## **US Army Corps** of Engineers

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



## **Public Notice**

APPLICATION NO.: EVALUATOR:

PBH-200103480

Mr. Philip Hollis, P.E. (601) 631-5491

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April 6, 2001 DATE:

EXPIRATION DATE: April 27, 2001

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95.217). Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Permits Division, Post Office Box 82135, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has additional information on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit:</u> Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

## Name of Applicant:

Bossier Levee District Post Office Box 189 Benton, Louisiana 71006

Location of Work: Sections 22 and 31, T19N-R13W, Latitude 32° 14' 22" Longitude 93° 25' 26" within the Red River Drainage Basin, Bossier Parish, near Bossier City, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to construct two low level concrete weirs in Flat River to provide permanent pool in the channel. These pools will provide fish and wildlife habitat, irrigation, as well as reducing channel maintenance that is needed. The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

Approximately 10,123 cubic yards of spoil will be excavated and spread at both sites. At the location of F2A weir the spoil will be spread on south side of channel on top of the existing spoil bank. At the location of P23 weir the spoil will be spread on west side of channel along the existing spoil bank in a 100' X 400' rectangular shape. Approximately 1,110 cubic yards of rock riprap will be spread upstream and downstream of the weirs on the back slope and below the weirs.

The dimensions of the weirs and controlling elevation are shown on the enclosed drawings. Presently, there are existing weirs in the vicinity-one downstream of the proposed F2A and one upstream of the proposed F2B. The proposed weirs will add approximately 1.7 million cubic feet of additional water storage capacity in this reach. The weir sections are designed for submerged flow so as not to impede channel conveyance of storm flows.

The placement of dredged and fill material associated with the structures below the ordinary high water elevation is the part of the project that requires a Department of the Army permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: There are four properties listed in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u> in Bossier Parish, Louisiana. However, our initial review indicated that the proposed project would have no effect on sites listed, or eligible for listing, in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. By copy of this public notice, we are soliciting comments from the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer and the Vicksburg District archeologist on the existence of specific sites or structures which may be affected by the work.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

<u>Evaluation Factors</u>: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreations, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

W. Harold Lee

Chief, Evaluation Section

Regulatory Branch





